

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00068 172104Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
-----172136 083380 /66

P R 171755Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 898
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TORONTO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0068

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC NOT YET SET IN POLITICAL CONCRETE

1. SUMMARY: FORMER QUEBEC MINISTER OF CULTURE, JEAN PAUL L'ALLIER, TODAY TOLD ME IN LONG TETE-TETE THAT HE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE MAJOR POLITICAL REALIGNMENT IN QUEBEC WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS. PROVINCIAL LIBERALS LIKELY DIVIDE WITH CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT OF PARTY, WHICH NOW INCLUDES BULK OF PARTY'S MEMBERS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MOVING TOWARDS UNION NATIONAL. ULTIMATELY, HE BELIEVES CONSERVATIVES WILL UNITE INTO ONE PARTY OF RIGHT WITH LITTLE SUBSEQUENT HOPE OF COMING TO POWER. MORE PROGRESSIVE LIBERALS LIKE HIMSELF MAY THEN FORM PROVINCIAL PARTY ALONG LINES OF NDP WHICH WILL INITIALLY ATTEMPT PROVIDE FEDERALIST ALTERNATIVE TO P.Q. L'ALLIER CONFIDED THAT HIS MODERATE ASSOCIATES SUCH AS CLAUDE CASTONGUAY AND LEON DION MIGHT ULTIMATELY JOIN MODERATE PEQUISTES IN A NEW POLITICAL FORMATION IF LATTER ARE WILLING "DEEMPHASIS" THEIR INDEPENDENTIST GOAL. (SEE ALSO QUEBEC 0059 FOR LEON DION'S VIEWS) L'ALLIER OPENED THAT TRUDEAU WILL BE REPLACED NEXT YEAR BY TURNER
END SUMMARY.

1. 2. L'ALLIER DOUBTS TRUDEAU WILL SURVIVE AS PRIME MINISTER BEYOND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00068 172104Z

NEXT YEAR. TRUDEAU'S CONCEPT OF FEDERALISM IS OUT OF STEP WITH CURRENT REALITY IN CANADA. POLITICAL TIDES ARE NOW RUNNING TOWARDS REGIONALISM AND TOWARDS COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT, L'ALLIER SAID. TRUDEAU IS HISTORICALLY OUT OF STEP WITH THESE TRENDS WITH HIS EMPHASIS ON CENTRALISM AND INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT L'ALLIER BELIEVES THE HISTORICAL CYCLE WILL RETURN TO TRUDEAU'S GOAL IN 20-30 YEARS AFTER PRESENT GROUP ASPIRATIONS

HAVE BEEN SATIFIED.

3. TURNER, ON OTHER HAND, IS ATUNED TO PRESENT TRENDS AND IN L'ALLIER'S OPINION, IS LIKELY SUCCEED TRUDEAN AS PRIME MINISTER. L'ALLIER DISMISSED JOE CLARK AS "LIGHT WEIGHT" PRE-OCCUPIED WITH SHORT TERM POLITICAL ADVANTAGE TO WHOM PEOPLE WILL NOT TURN IN MOMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS. TURNER ON OTHER HAND, HAS DEPTH OF HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH WOULD ALLOW HIM ACCEPT NEED FOR COMPLETE REVISION OF CONSTITUTION IN BROAD ENOUGH FASHION TO SATISFY BOTH QUEBEC CULTURAL NEEDS AND OTHER PROVINCES DESIRE FOR REGIONAL AUTOMONY.

4. P.Q. WILL NOT GO TO EXTREME OF OPTING FOR AUTARCHIC INDEPENDENCE. RATHER, THE MODERATES WITHIN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT WOULD SETTLE FOR A LOOSE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH THEY COULD DESCRIBE AS INDEPENDENCE WHILE REMAINING IN A CONFEDERATION WITH THE REST OF CANADA. HE BELIEVES THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE OF INDUCING MODERATE PEQUISTES TO ACCEPT A "CONDOMINUM SOLUTION" WHICH WOULD ALLOW A FORM OF INDEPENDANCE WITHIN COOPERATIVE STRUCTURE. L'ALLIER, WITH LIKE MINDED MODERATE FEDERALISTS, COULD THEN JOIN MODERATE PEQUISTES IN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE SLIGHTLY LEFT OF CENTER POLITICALLY. SUCH A REALIGNMENT WOULD BE A NATURAL JOINING OF LIKE-MINDED ELEMENTS WHOSE ONLY DISAGREEMENT IS DEGREE OF NATIONAL AUTONOMY FOR QUEBEC. RADICAL ELEMENTS IN P.Q., L'ALLIER BELIEVES, WILL INEVITABLY SPLIT FROM MODERATES.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE SCENARIO, WHILE POSSIBLE, IS COMPOSED OF SERIES OF CHANCY PROPOSITIONS. HOWEVER, FACT THAT ONE OF MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00068 172104Z

HIGHLY REGARDED MINISTER FROM FORMER LIBERAL GOVERNMENT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERS POSSIBLITY OF UNION WITH MODERATES IN P.Q. INDICATES THAT POLITICS IN QUEBEC RETAINS A NOT EASILY PERCEIVED DYNAMIC AND MAY NOT BE AS POLARIZED AS MOST OBSERVERS MIGHT ASSUME. I WOULD RATE SCENARIO PROPOSED BY L'ALLIER AS MOST OPTIMISTIC FROM A FEDERALIST WHICH REMAINS WITHIN RANGE OF REASONABLE PROBABILITY.

MCNAMARA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUEBEC00068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0708
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770232/aaaabbwx.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 539d17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3295660
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC NOT YET SET IN POLITICAL CONCRETE
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/539d17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009